



In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Application Number: 10/723,958

Application Filed: Nov. 25, 2003

Applicant(s): Belton, Debra Jean

Application Title: Nappy Locs Tool

Examiner/GAU: Robyn Doan

Mailed: January 11, 2006

At: Chesterfield, MO

Amendment D

Commissioner for Patents

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Madam:

In response to the Office Letter dated, November 09, 2006 , please amend

the above application as follows:

CLAIMS: Amendments to the claims begin on page 1 of this amendment.

CLAIMS: The following is a listing of all claims in the application with their status and the text of all active claims.

I claim:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A rigid, non distorting, non flexible hairstyling tool for the weaving of all hair types including African textured kinky natural and synthetic hair to be manually operated by the user comprising: an elongated cylindrical needle shaft having a first end and a second ends;

where the first end defining a rigid non-distorting probe portion; a rigid non-distorting oval intermediate portion for the threading of the hair section ; and a rigid non-distorting elongated pinched terminal portion characterized by a narrow slot significantly, reduced in width relative to the oval intermediate portion for the purpose of securely holding sections of hair while forming loops in all types of hair including kinky African textured hair.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The hairstyling tool of claim 1, wherein the probe portion is rigid and the end is rounded.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The hairstyling tool of claim 1 wherein the tool is fabricated of a material sufficiently capable of holding it's shape without distortion, being rigid preferably metal.
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The hairstyling tool of claim 1 wherein the intermediate oval portion is rigid, and non-distorting.

REMARKS -GENERAL :

Claims Rejections- 35 USC s 112.

Applicant has amended claims 1-4 to point out and distinctly claim subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims Rejections-35 USC s 102

The rejection of Tsujioka (Japanese Pat # 406284922A0) and Edmark (US Pat # 5,036,870 overcome

This Office action rejected the patent-ability over Tsujioka citing translated abstract fig. 7. Though Tsujioka's abstract does describe a hairstyling implement (See Exhibit A pg 1) the invention's probe portion is described as being flat not cylindrical and having elasticity (See